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U.S. POSTAL WORKERS INDICTED FOR WORKERS' COMPENSATION FRAUD

GREENBELT, MARYLAND – Thomas M. DiBiagio, United States Attorney for the District of Maryland, Thomas P. Brady, Inspector in Charge, Washington Division, United States Postal Inspection Service, and Rosa L. Howard, Special Agent in Charge, Washington Field Office, U.S. Postal Service - Office of Inspector General, announced that today a federal grand jury indicted the following United States Postal Service employees for fraudulently receiving workers' compensation payments from the United States Department of Labor's Office of Workers' Compensation Program during the same period they received income from outside employment:

Gary Stanley Brown, age 47, of Waldorf, Maryland;
James R. Carter, age 47, of Clinton, Maryland;
Karin A. Gadson, age 37, of Largo, Maryland;
Kyana C. Washington, age 24, of District Heights, Maryland; and
Offried K. Williams, age 49, of Upper Marlboro, Maryland.

A federal employee seeking workers' compensation benefits must complete a form identifying any income the employee received during the period for which they alleged they were disabled and unable to perform their regular duties. The defendants, who were indicted separately, are alleged to have falsely claimed that they did not receive any income during the periods of their alleged disability.

For example, Brown was employed by the Postal Service at the Waldorf Delivery and Distribution Center in Waldorf, Maryland. The indictment alleges that in April 2000, Brown began receiving worker's compensation benefits due to an alleged back sprain. Between April 2000 and January 2003, Brown allegedly received approximately \$11,000 in worker's compensation benefits during which time he earned at least \$21,000 in outside employment.

Carter was employed by the Postal Service as a mail carrier at the Twinbrook Post Office in Rockville, Maryland. The indictment alleges that in March 2000, Carter began receiving worker's compensation benefits due to a claimed back injury he allegedly suffered. Between March 2000 and March 20, 2004, Carter allegedly received approximately \$93,521.69 in worker's compensation benefits. From February 2002 through February 2004, he is alleged to have earned more than \$13,000 in wages from outside employment.

Gadson was employed by the Postal Service as a mail carrier in Washington, DC. The indictment alleges that in or about April 2003, Gadson began receiving worker's compensation benefits due to an alleged back injury she sustained. Between April 2003 and May 2004, Gadson allegedly received more than \$40,000 in worker's compensation benefits. During the same period, as a licensed barber and part-owner and manager of Perfect Cuts Unisex Barber Shop in Capitol Heights, Maryland she is alleged to have earned income from this business.

Washington was employed by the Postal Service at the Waldorf Delivery and Distribution Center in Waldorf, Maryland. The indictment alleges that in February 2003, Washington began receiving worker's compensation benefits due to an alleged back sprain or strain and knee contusions. Between February 2003 and February 20, 2004, Washington allegedly received approximately \$22,000 in worker's compensation benefits during which time she earned at least \$46,725 in employment wages from outside work.

Williams was employed by the Postal Service as an electronics mechanic at the Brentwood

facility in Washington, DC. The indictment alleges that in April 2003, Williams began receiving worker's compensation benefits due to an alleged "acute reaction to stress." Between December 2001 and May 2003, Williams allegedly received approximately \$35,785 in worker's compensation benefits during which time he earned approximately \$107,647 in real estate commissions and payments for work from outside employment.

All of the defendants have been charged in the indictments with making false statements to obtain federal employee compensation. Carter, Gadson and Williams were also charged with mail fraud or wire fraud. Carter, Gadson and Williams face a maximum sentence of 20 years imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine. Brown and Washington face a maximum sentence of 5 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

"Postal Inspectors will continue to aggressively pursue investigations of workers' compensation fraud," stated Thomas P. Brady, Inspector in Charge, Washington Division, US Postal Inspection Service. Inspector Brady added, "One of these cases highlights the success of the Postal Inspection Service's recent investigative partnering efforts with the Offices of Inspector General for the Postal Service and the Department of Labor. Together, with criminal prosecution by the U.S. Attorney's Office, we hope to make an even greater impact on those who choose to abuse the federal workers' compensation program."

An indictment is not a finding of guilt. An individual charged by indictment is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty at some later criminal proceedings.

The criminal charges resulting in the indictments are the result of a joint investigation by the United States Postal Service Office of Inspector General and the United States Postal Inspection Service. These cases are being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Daphene R. McFerren and Assistant United States Attorney Chan Park.